

Duxbury Clipper

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GATRA bus service to begin

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The director of the GATRA bus service said this week he expects buses will begin their Duxbury route just before Thanksgiving.

GATRA director Frank Gay told Duxbury selectmen Monday that the times and routes have been finalized from Kingston to Marshfield with stops in Duxbury and that the long-awaited service will begin before the end of November. The previous start-up date given to Duxbury officials at was Oct. 20.

GATRA stands for Greater Attleboro/Taunton Regional Transit Authority. GATRA provides transportation services for 23 communities.

Three GATRA buses will run on weekdays, beginning at 6 am at the Stop and Shop/Kohl's Plaza in Pembroke and ending at the Independence Mall in Kingston with service in Marshfield and Duxbury. The last bus leaves the mall at 6:30 pm. Two busses will run on Saturdays and there is no service on Sundays.

For Boston commuters, GATRA offers a bus leaving Hall's Corner at 5:52 a.m. reaching the Kingston commuter rail station at 6:16 a.m. Other rail connection busses leave Duxbury at approximately 6:30 and 8 a.m.

According to Gay, anyone along the Duxbury bus route can hail the white orange and blue buses and they will stop and let passengers on.

"If you live anywhere along the route, you can flag the bus down," said Gay.

In Duxbury, the bus will run north from Kingston along Tremont Street/Route 3A into Hall's Corner along Chestnut Street, down Depot Street to Tremont Street to St. George Street and schools, library and pool and then back up Route 3A to Marshfield. Scheduled stops in Marshfield include Roche Brothers plaza, Marshfield high school, Webster Square, and a housing complex. There will also be bus that continues to Brant Rock. In Duxbury, the busses will stop at the library, Hall's Corner, Island Creek housing area, and then

travel to the Kingsbury plaza, the Kingston train station and the Independence Mall. With a transfer, riders can take another bus to downtown Plymouth, the Long Pond medical building, the Shops at Five, the Colony Place shopping area and Jordan Hospital.

The buses run every hour and the route takes an hour.

The cost to ride is \$1 one-way. Seniors 60 and over, the disabled and students will pay fifty cents. All busses are equipped for wheelchair accessibility.

Because Duxbury received an \$186,608 suburban mobility grant from the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization, there can be three buses instead of the one that was planned, said Gay. The grant pays 80 percent of the costs the first year. That amount is reduced by ten percent for the next two years. Duxbury's share of \$70,000 comes from its \$93,000 state assessment for the Metropolitan Bay Transit Authority, for which Duxbury receives no direct services.